

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 00804 140923Z

16

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 EUR-12 ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04 USIA-06

SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 FEA-01 PRS-01

PA-01 EPA-01 NRC-05 /107 W

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R 140852Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6732

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, TH

SUBJECT: PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENTS

REF: A) BANGKOK 23954 B) BANGKOK 25212

1. PRESS JAN 14 REPORTED DEPARTURE FOR NETHERLANDS, UK, IRELAND, U.S. AND JAPAN OF INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE, HEADED BY PRAVIT RUYABHORN, SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE NATIONAL ENERGY AUTHORITY, TO STUDY NATURAL GAS PRODUCTION AND PRICING SYSTEMS IN ORDER HAVE BASIS FOR SETTING RATES HERE FOR NATURAL GAS, WHICH RTG CONTINUES TO HOPE WILL FLOW FROM UNION OIL CO. WELLS IN GULF IN NEAR FUTURE.

2. MINISTER OF INDUSTRY SURIN THEPKANCHANA HAS ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS TOLD PRESS THAT DURING VISIT TO U.S. IN NOVEMBER (REF A) UNION OIL EXECUTIVES AGREED, AT LEAST TENTATIVELY, TO PARTICIPATE IN PROJECT TO PIPE NATURAL  
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PAGE 02 BANGKO 00804 140923Z

GAS FROM GULF TO BANGKOK, AND THAT UNION OFFICIALS WILL

ARRIVE HERE IN FEBRUARY FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS. HOWEVER, UNION'S ACTING MANAGER (BILL CRAMER) INSISTS HIS HOME OFFICE HAS SHOWN ONLY "NECESSARY POLITICAL INTEREST" IN SURIN'S PIPELINE PROPOSAL, AND THAT WHILE RESIDENT MANAGER, WILLIAM GREENWALT WILL RETURN TO BANGKOK IN FEBRUARY FROM EXTENDED HOME LEAVE, HE (CRAMER) HAS NO KNOWLEDGE OF UNION OIL GROUP PLANNING TO COME HERE.

3. A MINERAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL (MRD) REPORTEDLY TOLD PRESS JAN 13 THAT OFFSHORE PETROLEUM COMPANY (OPC) OF TEXAS HAS NOTIFIED MRD OF ITS INTEREST IN SENDING FLOATING UREA PRODUCTION PLANT TO BEGIN OPERATIONS IN THE GULF, USING GAS FROM THE UNION WELLS, AT AN EARLY DATE. HOWEVER, CRAMER SAYS HE HAS HEARD NOTHING FROM OPC AND OPINED THAT OPC'S ONLY CONTACT WITH MRD HAS BEEN FORM LETTER, SENT TO MANY GOVERNMENTS AS PART OF OPC'S HUNT FOR BUSINESS FOR TWO UREA-PRODUCING BARGES NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION.

4. ON THE EXPLORATION FRONT, CRAMER SAID UNION IS BUDGETING FOR TWO, AND POSSIBLY FOUR, WELLS IN GULF THIS YEAR, BUT DECISION IS PENDING WHETHER TO EXPAND EXORATION DRILLING AREA OR, ALTERNATIVELY TO TRY COMBINED EXPLORATION DEVELOPMENT DRILLING NEAR STRUCTURES ALREADYLOCATED. ON ANDAMAN SEA SIDE, IN ADDITION TO SERIES OF ESSO WELLS, (REF B), UNION (WITH AMOCO, B.P. AND OTHERS) WILL PUT DOWN SERIES (PROBABLY 5) OF WELLS IN DEEPWATER BLOCK W-8 BEGINNING IN MARCH, EACH REQUIRING 100-190 DAYS OF DRILLING.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Subject:** PETROLEUM DEVELOPMENTS  
**TAGS:** ENRG, TH, UNION OIL, (PRAVIT, RUYABHORN)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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